

Experimental National Digital Forecast Database Using Geographic Information Systems

Product Description Document

Experimental Review Period: Oct. 1, 2005 – Sep. 30, 2006

Part 1 – Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – The National Weather Service now provides its primary forecast information in digital format. Standard weather forecasts such as temperature, chance of rain, and weather type are now provided as part of the new National Digital Forecast Database. This new experimental product blends the NDFD with GIS technology, providing GIS shapefiles of the NDFD.
- b. Purpose – Disseminate one of the NWS' product suites in GIS-compatible formats for use by the Emergency Management community. This directly supports the NWS' Strategic Plan 2005-2010 which states:

“Improved Services Focused on Customer Needs. As we focus on improving our services and expanding their scope, we will consult effectively with all who are affected by our services and be guided by our customer's needs. We will work with the weather, water, and climate enterprise to investigate, develop, and expand the use of new technologies in data management and information systems, such as new internet-based standards and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)”

and also reinforces the NWS' Science and Technology Infusion Plan (STIP) 2004 which states:

“NWS will continue adding information content to the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) and exploit telecommunications advances to eventually make available a comprehensive, real-time, four dimensional environmental information database of observations, model output, forecasts, warnings, and other information in internationally accepted and other formats.”

- c. Audience – Emergency managers who employ GIS to protect lives and property for their constituency. These managers can quickly access the shapefiles via the Internet and add them to their existing GIS fields.
- d. Presentation Format – Shapefile format (documented by ESRI) which is widely accepted as the standard format for GIS professionals.
- e. Feedback Method – Comments about the NWS GIS warning shapefiles may be sent to: http://weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=NDFD_shape_files

Technical comments for the Experimental National Digital Forecast Database Using GIS may be addressed to:

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Part II – Technical Description

Refer to: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/regsci/gis/shapefiles/ndfd>